

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) A method of removing an implanted lead from a vessel in the body of a patient, comprising:

providing a lead removal apparatus comprising an elongated proximal portion capable of having first and second configurations, the first configuration having a compacted, pre-formed shape being constrainable into the second configuration, ~~and the second configuration being sufficiently straight in shape to permit passage thereover by a medical device~~ sheath sized for insertion in said vessel and having a passageway extending therethrough, the first configuration having a diameter that exceeds a diameter of said sheath passageway; a distal portion including an expandable portion adapted to engage said implanted lead; and an actuator portion adapted to expand the expandable portion to effect engaging of said implanted lead;

introducing the distal portion of said lead removal apparatus into a the vessel of said body;

inserting the distal portion of said lead removal apparatus into said implanted lead;

activating the actuator portion such that the expandable portion expands and engages said implanted lead;

grasping the elongated proximal portion; and

applying traction to the proximal portion and retracting said implanted lead from said body.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 28 19, further comprising the steps of constraining the proximal portion into the second configuration by advancing a cannula said sheath over the elongated proximal portion and into the vessel, and separating to separate tissue from said implanted lead by advancing said sheath in the vessel.

21. (new) The method of claim 20, wherein the elongated proximal portion is adapted to at least substantially reassume the first configuration once the proximal portion is no longer being constrained into the second configuration.

22. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the first configuration of said elongated proximal portion comprises a plurality of coiled loops.

23. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said elongated proximal portion has a length of about 30 cm or greater.

24. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said elongated proximal portion comprises a length of intertwined wire.

25. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the expandable portion comprises a plurality of helically wound wires.

26. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the proximal portion in the first configuration includes a plurality of coiled loops having a shape memory.

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27. (new) The method of claim 26, wherein said elongated proximal portion is adapted to at least substantially reassume the first configuration once the proximal portion is no longer being constrained into the second configuration.

28. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein said actuator portion comprises an elongated cannula slidably disposed over said proximal portion.